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Message Text

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ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 IO-14 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03

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R 220920Z MAY 74
FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2030
INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
AMEMBASSY CANBERRA
AMCONSUL HONG KONG
AMEMBASSY JAKARTA
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MANILA
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
USLO PEKING
AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH
AMEMBASSY SAIGON
AMEMBASSY SEOUL
AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR
AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE
AMEMBASSY TAIPEI
AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE
AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
CINCPAC HONOLULU HI

C O N F I D E N T I A L TOKYO 6681

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E. O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, MY, CH
SUBJECT: JAPAN ON PRC-MALAYSIAN TIES

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REF: KUALA LUMPUR 2350

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1. FONOFF BRIEFED PRESS ON ITS REACTION TO ESTABLISH-
MENT OF PRC-MALAYSIA DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS INDICATING
GOJ WELCOMES DEVELOPMENT AS BENEFICIAL TO JAPAN'S
INTERESTS AS WELL AS FOSTERING STABILIZATION IN SE ASIA.
(FIRST SE ASIA DIV (HANABUSA) AND CHINA DIV (OGURA)
EXPRESSED SIMILAR VIEWS TO EMBASSY AS WELL.) BASICALLY,
FONOFF BELIEVES DEVELOPMENT WILL FACILITATE EVENTUAL
NEUTRALIZATION OF SE ASIA AND THEREBY PROMOTE PEACE AND
RELAX TENSIONS IN ASIA. RAPPROCHEMENT BETWEEN PRC AND
SE ASIANS WILL ALSO HELP CREATE ENVIRONMENT IN WHICH
JAPAN CAN PROMOTE ITS OWN DIPLOMACY. HANABUSA NOTED
THAT THAILAND'S AND THE PHILIPPINES' MOVEMENT TOWARD
NORMALIZATION AND ESTABLISHMENT OF DIPLOMATIC
RELATIONS WITH PEKING WOULD PROBABLY ACCELERATE FOLLOWING
MALAYSIA'S ACTION.

2. MEDIA GENERALLY WELCOMED PRC-MALAYSIA MOVE IN SAME
TERMS AS FONOFF. MORE CAUTIOUS NOTE SOUNDED BY SANKEI
WHICH CALLED DEVELOPMENT A DIPLOMATIC SUCCESS FOR
CHINA WHICH WOULD ASSIST PEKING IN RESTRAINING GROWTH
OF SOVIET INFLUENCE IN SE ASIA. BUT, CONSEQUENT RIVALRY
BETWEEN PRC AND USSR IN SE ASIA MIGHT ENGENDER TRYING
PERIOD IN SE ASIA. PRESS DETECTED SOME CAUTION IN
FONOFF RELATED TO UNCERTAINTY OVER IMPLICATIONS OF
RAPPROCHEMENT FOR MALAYSIA-TAIWAN AIR LINK AND FUTURE
OF OVERSEAS CHINES.

3. COMMENT: MALAYSIAN-PRC TIES AND MOVEMENT TOWARD
HARMONIOUS RELATIONS BETWEEN SE ASIAN STATES
AND CHINA FIT GOJ DESIRED SCENARIO FOR FUTURE OF AREA.
GOJ HOPES THAT RIVALRY IN SE ASIA AMONG MAJOR POWERS,
US USSR, AND PRC, WILL ABATE AND THAT THOSE POWERS PLUS
JAPAN WILL SHARE MORE BALANCED INTERPLAY IN AREA BUT
WITH NO SINGLE POWER DOMINATING. JAPAN ALSO WELCOMES
COMPANY OF ANOTHER FRIENDLY EAST ASIAN NATION AMONG
THOSE HAVING DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH PEKING, THEREBY
REDUCING JAPAN'S ISOLATION ON THIS SCORE AMONG ITS
TRADITIONAL EAST ASIAN FRIENDS.
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